

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-13 AID-20

PC-04 SCS-03 CCO-00 FBO-01 NIC-01 M-03 OC-06 OPR-02

SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-10 RSR-01 /158 W

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O R 181415Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4239

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJ: AFGHAN COUP: SITREP 6

REF: A) KABUL 5239; B) KABUL 5221

1. AFTERNOON JULY 18 SITUATION IN KABUL REMAINS AS REPORTED
REFTEL A. NO NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE OVER RADIO
AFGHANISTAN AND MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS THROUGHOUT CITY REMAIN
AS BEFORE.

2. DCM MET WITH ACTING UNDP RESREP SCOTT FOR CONVERSATION
REGARDING RECENT INFORMATION HE HAD OBTAINED FROM ISMAILI OSMAN
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(REFTEL B), WHO IS NEPHEW MOHAMMAD DAUD. OSMAN REPORTS

THAT WHILE DAUD STILL CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL COUNTERCOUP, SINCE COUPS BREED COUPS, HE REMAINS REASONABLY CONFIDENT HIS HOLD ON COUNTRY. HE ADDED DAUD HAPPY WITH RECEPTION HIS REGIME HAS RECEIVED IN PROVINCES AND THAT WHILE SOME SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS RESISTED HIS TAKE OVER, JUNIOR OFFICERS HAVE SUPPORTED REGIME AND ARRESTED DISSIDENTS. OSMAN SAID DAUD BELIEVES DECLARATION AFGHANISTAN AS REPUBLIC HAS ATTRACTED "WAVERERS" WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE OPPOSED HIM AS USURPER KING'S POSITION AND TITLE.

3. OSMAN ALSO REPORTED AFGHAN AIR AUTHORITY PRESIDENT SULTAN MAHMUD GHAZI WAS NOT DETAINED AND HAS NO RESTRICTIONS HIS MOVEMENTS. ARIANA VP SAW GHAZI IN AFTERNOON. (USAID SOURCES REPORT FORMER FONMIN JALALLAR AND SEVERAL OTHER UNNAMED MEMBERS SHAFIQ GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND ALLOWED TO GO HOME).

4. IN RESPONSE TO SCOTT QUESTION, OSMAN SAID HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE FOUR-FIVE DAYS BEFORE NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED AND ANNOUNCED AN EQUAL NUMBER DAYS BEFORE AIRLINE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE RESTORED IN COUNTRY.

5. FINALLY, OSMAN REPORTED DAUD AND NAIM (LATTER ADVISING DAUD) HAVE RENOUNCED ROYAL TITLES AND AND HENCEFORTH WISHED TO BE CALLED MISTER. IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS WILL MEAN TOTAL ABOLISHMENT ALL ROYAL TITLES AND PREROGATIVES.

6. AT LUNCHEON KABUL CONSULAR OFFICERS, EMBOFF REPORTS CORPS HAD NO MORE INFORMATION THAN WE ALREADY KNOW. ALSO, THAT CONSULAR CORPS WAS EXPERIENCING NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS THEIR OWN NATIONALS IN COUNTRY. PAK CONSUL REPORTED BUS LOAD PAK CITIZENS ARRIVED KABUL LATE LAST NIGHT FROM TORKHAM. IT PROBABLE THAT BUS GOT THROUGH PAK-AFGHAN BORDER BEFORE WORD PASSED TO CLOSE FRONTIER, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT VERIFY THAT FRONTIER IS ABSOLUTELY CLOSED. CONSULAR CORPS DISCUSSED POTENTIAL AUTOMOBILE-GASOLINE SHORTAGE KABUL. SOV CONSULAR OFFICER REPORTED SOVIET COMOFF HAS GONE TO MAZAR-I-SHARIF TO INSURE THAT SUPPLY GASOLINE FROM USSR REMAINS UNINTERRUPTED.

7. CHARGE REPORTED THAT NUMBER GERMAN TECHNICIANS FROM
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PAKTIA PROJECT DROVE TO KABUL JULY 17 AND OBSERVED NO RPT NO UNUSUAL MILITARY OR OTHER ACTIVITY ENROUTE. THEY REPORTED THAT THERE WAS UNUSUAL AIR OF CALM IN PAKTIA WITH MILITARY IN CANTONMENTS. TECHNICIANS ALSO SAID TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PAKTIA, AT LEAST IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AND KABUL WERE OPERATIONAL. REPRESENTATIVE (AMCIT) OF CATERPILLAR TRACTOR REPORTS HE DROVE FROM PUL-I-KHUMRI TO KUNDUZ AND BACK TO KABUL JULY 17-18 WITHOUT ANY HINDRANCE. SAME AS GERMAN

OBSERVERS SAW NO RPT NO MILITARY ACTIVITY UNTIL ARRIVAL
KABUL.

8. CHARLES BENNETT, VICE PRESIDENT ARIANA AIRLINES, REPORTS
THAT INTERNATIONAL OVERFLIGHTS AGAIN PERMITTED AFTER
SUSPENSION. HE SAID THAT TWO ARIANA EMPLOYEES "TALKED"
THEIR WAY TO AIRPORT THROUGH THREE LINES OF AFGHAN ARMY
TROOPS TO BE GREETED AT AIRPORT PROPER BY AFGHAN AIR FORCE
CAPTAIN IN CHARGE. CAPTAIN REPORTED THAT AIR FORCE IS
OPERATING INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM. BENNETT
HAS NO RPT NO CLUE AS TO WHEN AIR SERVICE WOULD BE RESUMED
AND SEEKING TO MEET WITH GENERAL RAZAK WHO REPORTEDLY HAS
TAKEN CHARGE OF AIR FORCE.

9. THIS WILL BE LAST SITREP FOR JULY 18 UNLESS UNUSUAL
DEVELOPMENT WARRANTS OTHERWISE.
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